

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS ANDERSON TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT

January 12, 2016

Nadine Gelter, President, called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Anderson Township Park District (“ATPD”) to order at 6:30 pm at Park District Headquarters, 8249 Clough Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45244. Present were Board Members: Tom Turchiano, Dale Bartholomew, and Rob Herking. Angie Stocker had a work obligation.

Also present were: Ken Kushner, Executive Director; Emily Armstrong, Assistant Director/Board Clerk; Brian Jordan, Financial Officer; Jessica Fall, Recreation Manager; Mike Smith, Operations Manager; and Sheila Fehn, Office Manager.

GUESTS: Brad Bibus, resident/staff; Bob Drake, resident; Sheila Vilvens, Forest Hills Journal.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA: Mr. Herking moved the Board approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Bartholomew seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mr. Bartholomew, Mrs. Gelter, and Mr. Herking. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Lonnie Bettle Service Award: Mr. Kushner stated the Lonnie Bettle Service Award was established by the Board in 1999 to honor Mr. Bettle’s outstanding service to the community through the ATPD. Mr. Bettle was a unique and talented individual who made a significant, positive contribution to the development of the ATPD. He helped build the ATPD during the early years, when we had very little to work with. His passion for parks and recreation lives on at the ATPD and he instilled in all who worked with him to be creative and resourceful.

Mr. Kushner presented Brad Bibus with the 2015 Lonnie Bettle Service Award. He said each year staff sends Lonnie’s wife a letter about the award recipient. He read the following excerpt from the letter:

“Brad joined our Recreation team as a part-time employee in February of 2013. He quickly became our go-to Jack of All Trades and was promoted to a leadership position. Since then, Brad has served in just about every role at the Anderson Parks, including but not limited to: programs, events, leagues, security, maintenance, landscaping, and concessions. Brad is truly willing to do whatever is needed in the parks.”

Mr. Kushner stated that Mr. Bibus exudes many of the same qualities that Lonnie did.

Mr. Bibus thanked Mr. Kushner and the Board for the award. He said each department he works in is full of employees who are deserving of the award.

The Board congratulated Mr. Bibus for receiving the award and thanked him for the work he does throughout the parks and at programs throughout the year.

Public to Address the Board: No one wished to address the Board at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

2015 Year in Review: The annual “Year in Review” video, created by Allison Cottrill, ATPD Marketing Specialist, was shown highlighting the ATPD’s accomplishments for 2015.

Beech Acres Property Purchase: Mr. Kushner presented a January 4, 2016 Resolution from the Forest Hills School District Board of Education (“FHSD”) which resolves that the FHSD will no longer further consider the proposal to relocate Anderson High School to the Beech Acres property.

Mrs. Gelter said the ATPD is waiting for Anderson Township government to complete the contract with the property owners.

NEW BUSINESS:

General Park and Facility Updates: Mr. Kushner presented an update and a map for each park and facility. He highlighted the projects planned for 2016 and the established priorities for future park improvements. He said the ATPD’s ability to accomplish planned projects is often affected by the unexpected projects that arise as a result of weather, nature, and/or human actions. This is an inevitable aspect of the parks and recreation business and we will continue to adapt as necessary.

Mr. Kushner stated while not as exciting as special projects, maintenance is an important, constant, and major undertaking throughout the year in each ATPD park and facility.

Beech Acres Park: Beech Acres Park proper continues to be the ATPD’s most highly visited park in the district. The future of Beech Acres Park hinges on the Beech Acres property, which includes the RecPlex. Should the ATPD no longer have access to the RecPlex and Beech Acres property and support facilities, ATPD programs and events would be significantly affected. At this point the ATPD is planning to run business as usual through August. The ATPD’s future beyond August is in the hands of the Township Trustees. No special projects are planned for Beech Acres Park in 2016.

Clear Creek Park

A lot happened at Clear Creek Park in 2015. 2016 will be the first full year for the pickleball courts. The regional Little Miami Trail connection will officially open in the spring of 2016; the ATPD will be part of the ribbon cutting festivities on May 21. Clear Creek Park continues to be the ATPD hub for grass athletic fields, serving soccer, lacrosse, and football. This park has evolved in many positive ways since 2011, including the parking lot renovation, the trail project, and the acquisition of the driving range which enabled the ATPD to solve its drainage issues in the park. Special projects in 2016 include:

- Hooking up the driving range to public water.
- Adapting to the impact regional trail use will have on the park.

Juilfs Park

Second in visitation to Beech Acres Park, Juilfs Park continues to be a hotspot for year-round outdoor activity for all ages. Projects planned for Juilfs Park in 2016 include:

- Installation of the water play area to complete the playground renovation. This project is made possible by a NatureWorks grant (\$63,520) and a significant contribution from the Juilfs Foundation (\$20,000).

- Renovation of the basketball court. This project is made possible by a significant donation from the Juilfs Foundation (\$10,000).

Since 1978, the Juilfs Foundation has been very generous to the community through the funding of various amenities throughout Juilfs Park. Their contributions have had a significant, meaningful, and lasting impact on the quality of life for all Anderson Township residents.

Johnson Hills Park

W. M. Johnson Hills Park (“JHP”) serves as the primary location for ATPD nature programs and continues to be a popular hiking destination. The Phase I plan which evolved last year continues to be the ATPD’s guide for the park for the next ten or so years. The plan represents a balance of amenities that promote activities in a passive, natural setting. A priority of the Park Board has been to consider our various populations with park design and amenity options. The Phase I plan resides year-round on the ATPD website. Mr. Kushner provided a list of 2015 programs that took place at JHP. No major projects are planned in 2016. Minor projects planned for JHP in 2016-2017 include the same as from the 2015 list:

- Continue to promote the installation of sidewalks to connect the surrounding neighborhoods with the park. Mr. Kushner stated this portion is probably not high on the priority list, but that residents in the surrounding neighborhoods have requested park access via sidewalks.
- Abandon the trail by the homes along Crooked Stick and re-establish the trail further into the park.
- Install gravel beds for future paved trail connections.
- Continue to work with donors for the installation of an off-leash dog field area.
- Continue to work with the disc golf volunteer group on the design and installation of a disc golf course.
- Continue to build upon programming offered, including, but not limited to: camping, events, programs, and rental opportunities.
- Continue to make improvements as park use dictates including, but not limited to: park benches, picnic tables, family swings, trail enhancements, signage, plantings, restoration of the existing pond, and removal of structures, debris, and invasive species.

Kellogg Park

Kellogg Park has evolved into a very nice park over the past few years as a result of various improvement projects including a new playground and a shelter. Athletic field use attracts high visitation in the spring and fall. The dog field attracts regular visitation year-round from dawn to dusk, with spikes during nicer weather. There are no special projects planned for Kellogg Park in 2016.

Laverty Park

Laverty Park is a preferred location for baseball games because of the various amenities within eyesight of the ball field. This pocket park is regularly enjoyed by the surrounding neighborhood, as well. A special project for 2016 is extensive honeysuckle removal.

Riverside Park

This spring, park visitors will discover the new playground that was installed at the end of 2015. The new playground replaced the playground that was relocated from Nagel Park. Riverside Park continues to be the hub for ATPD ball fields and features both grass athletic fields and the popular All Weather Fields. A special project for 2016 is to paint the ball field fencing.

Veterans Park

Veterans Park is often referred to as the ATPD's best kept secret. It has a little of everything that Juilfs and Beech Acres Parks have but is not as highly visited. A special project for 2016 is to make various minor repairs to the playground, which is going on 10 years since its last renovation.

Support Facilities

ROCE: The ATPD Operations hub is regularly in a state of minor improvement. In 2016 we will finally demolish one of the unusable structures on the property.

State & Nagel: This corner continues to serve the ATPD's miscellaneous material storage needs (dirt), as well as overflow parking for Nagel Middle School.

Should we no longer have access to the support facilities we currently rent on the Beech Acres property, all ATPD properties would be evaluated for storage and maintenance potential. Every ATPD park would require at least minor infrastructure improvements, and at least a couple of locations would require significant infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Kushner said the park improvements were identified in the 2013/2014 Park Improvements Public Input process. He said the Riverside Park All Weather Fields are an example of an improvement that staff presented because they enabled the ATPD: to serve the community's demand for year-round sports; to serve activities that are simply destructive on natural grass fields, whether it be the nature of the sport or the time of the year the sport takes place. The All Weather Fields have significantly improved the overall quality of the ATPD's natural grass fields.

Mrs. Gelter suggested staff consider moving forward with the road improvement at JHP for safety reasons. While it is cheaper to do everything at once, improving the line of sight is important, and she believes the Board should consider this improvement sooner, rather than later. It may take the ATPD longer than we want, but eventually we will get it all done. She said Kellogg Park is a good example of the ATPD's phased improvements.

Board Member Terms List and Organization Chart: Mr. Kushner presented a list of ATPD Board members and their terms, as well as an organization chart of the ATPD staff.

Calendar of Events: Mr. Kushner presented a calendar of upcoming activities for the Board's review. He said the ATPD's program and league participation continues to exceed available gym space. The Recreation Department is sending participants to gyms all over the community, including: Mt. Washington Elementary School, Miami Valley Christian Academy, Zion Lutheran Church, and any gym the FHSD has available. Northern Kentucky University is the site of the ATPD's popular Daddy Daughter Dance.

Mrs. Fall said there are currently over 350 people in each dance on Friday and Saturday night and that both evening dances will fill up. The early dance on Saturday usually allows for a little wiggle room for late registrants.

REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL:

Staff Changes: Mr. Herking moved the Board approve staff's recommendation to accept the resignation from *Vince Slone, Full Time Operations Specialist, effective December 16, 2015*, and to promote the following part-time employees on their actual dates of promotion: *Jeff Campbell*, from

Operations Staff I to Operations Staff II; and **Ron Pollack**, from Operations Staff I to Operations Staff II.

Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mr. Bartholomew, Mrs. Gelter, and Mr. Herking. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Purchase Order Approval:

Mr. Bartholomew moved the Board approve the following between-meeting Purchase Orders, as presented by Mr. Jordan:

<i>Evans Landscaping</i>	<i>Demolition Dumpsters for ROCE</i>	\$ 9,000.00
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Mr. Herking seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mr. Bartholomew, Mrs. Gelter, and Mr. Herking. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Final Approval of 2016 Budget:

Mr. Herking moved the Board approve the final 2016 Budget as presented by Mr. Jordan.

Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mr. Bartholomew, Mrs. Gelter, and Mr. Herking. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2016-01 ~ Annual Appropriations:

Mr. Turchiano moved the Board approve **Resolution 2016-01, the Annual Appropriations**

Resolution. Mr. Bartholomew seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mr.

Bartholomew, Mrs. Gelter, and Mr. Herking. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2016-02 ~ Annual Certificate of Resources:

Mr. Bartholomew moved the **Board approve Resolution 2016-02, approving the final revenues for 2015 and the expenditures available for 2016** as presented.

Mr. Herking seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mr. Bartholomew, Mrs. Gelter, and Mr. Herking. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Annual Purchase Order Approval: Mr. Turchiano moved the Board approve the following Annual Purchase Orders:

Duke Energy, Park Wide Gas & Electric	\$ 86,500.00
Greater Cincinnati Water Works, Water & Sewer	\$ 32,000.00
Hylant Group, Liability Insurance	\$ 50,000.00
Beech Acres Parenting Center, RecPlex	\$ 67,187.16
Hamilton County Sheriff's Department	\$ 94,000.00
Wex Bank, Marathon Fleet Fuel	\$ 74,000.00
Humana, Health Insurance	\$ 132,000.00
Fifth Third Bank Leasing, Equipment Lease (2014)	\$ 64,635.71
Fifth Third Bank Leasing, Equipment Lease (2015)	\$ 67,919.00
PNC Bank, 2010 Bond Fund	\$ 224,116.41
Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, Legal Services	\$ 10,000.00
Rainbow Environmental Services, ROCE Asbestos Removal	\$ 8,485.00

Mr. Bartholomew seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mr. Bartholomew, Mrs. Gelter, and Mr. Herking. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURES:

Mr. Herking moved the Board approve the **December, 2015 Financial Reports and Authorize the Expenditures** as presented by Mr. Jordan. Mr. Turchiano seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mr. Bartholomew, Mrs. Gelter, and Mr. Herking. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Gelter moved the Board approve the minutes from the **December 15, 2015 Regular Meeting** as written. Mr. Herking seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Turchiano, Mr. Bartholomew, Mrs. Gelter, and Mr. Herking. (4); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Public to Address the Board:

Mr. Drake said not much has changed on the Johnson Hills Park plans (“JHP”) as a result of the well attended meeting in February of 2015, nor the JHP Open House in April of 2015. He asked why the Board continues to ignore virtually all of the public. The ATPD has no data to support the Board’s plans to spend \$20 million on JHP. No one wants a playground, swings, benches, or disc golf at JHP.

Mr. Herking said he likes JHP, too, and that he understands that Mr. Drake wants nothing to happen there. Basic improvements are necessary for a public park. The major basic improvements the ATPD needs to make include restrooms, a two-way driveway with a safe line of sight, and utility upgrades. He said the Board cannot statistically create a plan that satisfies all 44,000 Anderson Township residents. The plan represents a balance of the community’s interests. The ATPD has no major improvements planned for this year at JHP. The ATPD will continue to make minor improvements each year.

Mrs. Gelter said there are no appropriations for major improvements at JHP in 2016. If the ATPD had the funds to put restrooms in, at this point, there are no sewers to hook up to. The ATPD has been up front with the community that the plan is to chip away at projects for JHP. Over time, the ATPD will add general park amenities for the community to enjoy.

Mr. Bartholomew said that Mr. Drake’s opinion that no one wants disc golf continues not to be true.

Mr. Kushner said people asked the ATPD to boil down the plan so they could grasp what JHP could realistically include. The ATPD simplified the previous master plan into a 10 year plan, which will be accomplished over time. The Phase I plan represents basic public park amenities and is on the ATPD’s website so the community can understand how the park will evolve.

Mr. Turchiano left the meeting at 7:18 pm.

At 7:21 pm Mr. Herking moved the Board adjourn into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition. Mrs. Gelter seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Bartholomew, Mrs. Gelter, and Mr. Herking. (3); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

At 7:40 pm Mr. Bartholomew moved the Board adjourn the Executive Session and re-open the regular meeting. Mr. Herking seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Bartholomew, Mrs. Gelter, and Mr. Herking. (3); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

At 7:40 pm, there being no further business to be brought before this Board, Mr. Bartholomew moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Herking seconded the motion. Voting: Yes: Mr. Bartholomew, Mrs. Gelter, and Mr. Herking. (3); No: None. The motion carried unanimously.

I hereby certify that the foregoing are the minutes of the January 12, 2016 regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners, which minutes reflect the essence of the meeting and are not verbatim.

Emily Armstrong
Board Clerk

Dale Bartholomew

Nadine Gelter

Rob Herking

Tom Turchiano